

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 20, 22, 24, 25, 27-31 and 34-38 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 20, 29 and 34 are amended, and claim 38 is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 20, 25, 27, 28, 34 and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,570,267 to Ma (hereinafter "Ma"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 20 is directed to a method for fixing a flat display panel in a monitor. Independent claim 20 recites aligning a display panel and a fixing frame with a back cover, comprising aligning at least one aligning guide provided on the fixing frame with at least one corresponding guide portion provided on the back cover, wherein the at least one guide portion is provided with an aligning groove that receives the at least one aligning guide so as to align the fixing frame and the back cover, wherein the display panel comprises a screen portion provided on a first side of the display panel and configured to display an image, and a rear portion provided on a second side of the display panel opposite the first side, wherein the rear portion is configured to face an inner surface of the back cover, thereafter simultaneously fixing the aligned display panel and fixing frame to the back cover using a fastener, the fastener being inserted from a forward side of the display panel and extending therethrough and into the back

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cover, and thereafter fixing a front cover to the back cover having the display panel and fixing frame coupled thereto, comprising engaging at least one hook and at least one corresponding hook receiving portion so as to couple the back cover and the front cover, wherein a strength of the front cover is less than a strength of the back cover, and the at least one hook is bent so as to define insertion ends that are inserted into the at least one hook receiving portion, wherein the front cover comprises a front portion of the housing for the display panel which includes an opening through which the image displayed on the screen portion of the display panel is visible.

Ma neither discloses nor suggests the features of independent claim 20, or the claimed combination of features.

Ma discloses in Figure 2 a flat display module including a display unit 1, a protective cover 2, a display holder frame 3, a stiff backing 4, and a lead wire 5. The display unit 1 includes a frame 11 surrounding a display 12. The display unit 1 is coupled to the protective cover 2 by screws that extend through mounting holes 14 at the four corners of the frame 11 and into the protective cover 2. The display unit 1 is received in a rectangular center opening 31 of the display holder frame 3, and is coupled by a plurality of hooks 32 and retaining holes 33 on the frame 3 and retaining rods 21 and notches 22 on the cover 2. Thus, the display unit 1 is first coupled to the protective cover 2, or front cover. The coupled display unit 1 and protective cover 2 are then coupled to the frame 3. The coupled display unit 1, protective cover 2 and frame 3 are then coupled to the stiff backing 4, or back cover. Ma neither discloses nor suggests first aligning a display panel and a fixing frame with a back cover, thereafter simultaneously

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fixing the aligned display panel and fixing frame to the back cover using a fastener, and thereafter fixing a front cover to the back cover having the display panel and fixing frame coupled thereto, as specifically recited in independent claim 20.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 3 of Ma (referred to in the Office Action), the stiff backing 4 has a center opening 42 aligned with the center opening 31 of the frame 3, and a flat casing 6 (element 6 not numbered in Figure 3) mounted within the center opening 42 to hold the display unit 1 inside the frame 3. The flat casing 6 includes mounting holes 63 connected to the mounting holes 14 of the display unit 1 and the protective cover 2. The flat casing 6 allows the display unit 1 to be removed from the frame 3 or the stiff backing 4. Thus, in this embodiment, the display unit 1 is first coupled to the protective cover 2, or front cover. The coupled display unit 1 and protective cover 2 are then coupled to the frame 3, and then to the flat casing 6.. The coupled display unit 1, protective cover 2, frame 3 and flat casing 6 are then coupled to the stiff backing 4, or back cover. Even in this embodiment, Ma neither discloses nor suggests first aligning a display panel and a fixing frame with a back cover, thereafter simultaneously fixing the aligned display panel and fixing frame to the back cover using a fastener, and thereafter fixing a front cover to the back cover having the display panel and fixing frame coupled thereto, as specifically recited in independent claim 20.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 20 is not anticipated by Ma, and thus the rejection of independent claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Ma should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 25, 27, 28, 34 and 35 are allowable at least for the reasons set

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forth above with respect to independent claim 20, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

II. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 20 and 25 and 27-31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Figure 1 of the present application in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,905,550 to Ohgami et al. (hereinafter "Ohgami"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The features of independent claim 20 are set forth above. As acknowledged in the Office Action, Figure 1 of the present application neither discloses nor suggests each of the features of independent claim 20, or the claimed combination of features. Further Ohgami fails to overcome the deficiencies of Figure 1 of the present application.

Figure 1 of the present application discloses a monitor 1 including an LCD module 4 positioned between front and back covers 5 and 2, and a fixing frame 3 that fixes a position of the LCD module 4. To assemble the monitor 1 shown in Figure 1 of the present application, the front cover 5 is placed face down, and the assembled LCD module 4/fixing frame 3 are aligned with the front cover 5, with a side of the LCD module that displays an image facing downward, toward the front cover 5. In contrast, independent claim 20 requires that the display panel and fixing frame be aligned and then simultaneously coupled to the back cover, so that the majority of the weight of the display panel is borne by the back cover. Further, Figure 1 of the present application neither discloses nor suggests such a coupling using a fastener inserted in the specific manner recited in independent claim 20. Still further, Figure 1 of the present application

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necessarily neither discloses nor suggests fixing the LCD module 4/fixing frame 3 with the back cover 2 using at least one aligning guide provided on the fixing frame and at least one corresponding guide portion provided on the back cover, as recited in independent claim 20. Still further, Figure 1 of the present application neither discloses nor suggests such a coupling using a fastener inserted in the specific manner recited in independent claim 20.

Ohgami discloses a portable computer 1 including a display device 3 supported on a main body 2. The display device includes a casing 15 formed by inserting a hook 25 into a receiving portion 26 formed in a display mask 21 to couple the display mask 21 to a display cover 20. Ohgami is merely cited as allegedly teaching the use of hooks and receiving portions as a coupling mechanism, and thus fails to overcome the deficiencies of Figure 1 of the present application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 20 is allowable over the applied combination, and thus the rejection of independent claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Figure 1 of the present application and Ohgami should be withdrawn. Dependent claims 25 and 27-31 are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 20, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

The Office Action rejects claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Ma. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Dependent claim 36 is allowable over Ma at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 20, from which it depends, as well as for its added features.

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Further, it would not have been obvious to modify the LCD module disclosed by Ma in the manner suggested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 36 is allowable over Ma, and thus the rejection of claim 36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

III. New Claim 38

New claim 38 is added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claim 38 meets the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, and is allowable over the applied prior art references at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 20, from which it depends, as well as for its added features.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned, Joanna K. Mason, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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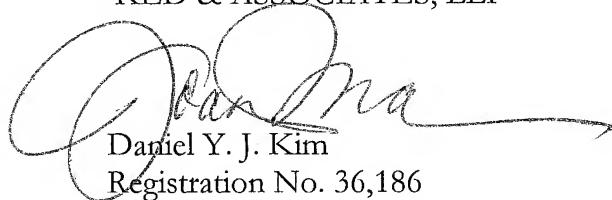
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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and

please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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